Testimony of

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Before the

Education Committee

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Good afternoon, Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of House Bill 6884. This bill takes important steps toward addressing the educator shortage in Connecticut, showing educators that theirs is a respected profession, and ensuring that our classrooms and schools can provide the best possible education for our students.

Teachers are struggling post pandemic. To ensure appreciation and motivation to continue on after this, the COVID benefit enhancement recognizes that teachers were in many ways on the front line during the beginning of this frightening time, face to face with hundreds of students and unvaccinated. Many of us lost pay during this time because of needing to care for loved ones that were at risk of COVID.

Thank you for your time and consideration.